HUMAN VALUES

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Prospects of the Representation of the People Bill.

The resolute attitude shown by the Trade Union Congress about the Representation of the People Bill has, as we anticipated, been followed up by further action on the part of the Labour Party.

On September 28th a deputation representing the National Labour Party Executive and the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress waited on Mr. Lloyd George.

The deputation consisted of Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., Mr. Harry Gosling, Mr. Willian Carter (Miners' Federation), Mr. J. Wignall (Dockers), Mr. Arthur Peters, National Agent for the Labour Party, and Mr. J. S. Middleton.

Mr. Harry Gosling referred to the apprehension of Labour that it was the intention of the Government to postpone the Bill until after the question of the reconstitution of the House of Lords had been dealt with. He drew the Prime Minister's attention to a speech which he (Mr. Lloyd George) made to a deputation from the Labour Party in March, when he declared that "the Parliament that reconstructs Great Britain and Ireland after the war ought to be a Parliament that receives a direct mandate from a strengthened and a reinforced electorate."

Mr. Lloyd George, it was stated at the close of the interview, made a most sympathetic reply, in which he said that he adhered to every word of the quotation referred to by Mr. Gosling. He trusted they would have no need to be apprehensive about the Bill, because it was the intention of the Government to afford every facility for its early passing into law. The Government had not swerved one iota with regard to their interest in the measure, the urgent necessity of which was apparent to them all.

As we have already stated in these columns, we believe that the swift passage of the Representation of the People Bill is an urgent necessity for the Government itself, we have therefore every confidence in the intentions of the Prime Minister with regard to its progress.

Sweden and Women's Suffrage.

The success of the Socialists at the Swedish elections gives good hope that a scheme of electoral reform, including Women's Suffrage, may be introduced and carried. Both the Socialist and the Liberal parties support Women's Suffrage, to which the Conservatives have offered unbending opposition. The Swedish Parliamentary system is intricate, but nothing ought now to prevent the extension of the Suffrage to women.

Hungarian Women and the Franchise.

It is reported from Budapest that M. Vazsonyi, the Minister charged with the Hungarian Franchise Reform measure, will introduce his Bill in the autumn session. It will add about three million new voters to the register, of whom about three hundred thousand will be women, including war widows, women who have independent businesses, and women "who have passed examinations."

It will be remembered by readers of THE COMMON CAUSE that Hungarian women recently sent a message of congratulation to British women on the prospect of their enfranchisement. In replying to this, the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. said, "We believe that the progress of the women's movement in one country helps the cause in all countries, and we are glad to be reminded, that even in these unhappy days of conflict, there is a region in which the women of all nations, divided on other subjects, can still rejoice together."

The number of Hungarian women who have a prospect of enfranchisement by the measure now proposed seems very small, but it will be something gained for freedom, and will therefore be a cause for rejoicing here as well as there.

Women's Suffrage in the U.S.A.

On September 24th, the House of Representatives agreed, by 181 votes to 107, upon the formation of a Committee to consider all matters relating to women's suffrage.

What the Moon Sees.

The September moon, whose light on these quiet evenings has turned the countryside into a misty fairyland, has, in London, given light for a series of long and determined air-raids, which have been met with a vigorous defence. The civilian population of London are now sharing a little—but only a *very* little—of the danger to life and limb which is the daily portion of those who serve us abroad. It is an opportunity for each person to help a little by a spirit of calmness and discipline, and by carrying on his or her job as well as usual, in spite of interruptions. The daily Press has expressed admiration of the way in which the girl 'bus-conductors and the telephone-operators have carried on. This is, of course, no surprise to Suffragists. The men who are on duty do the same, and we do not expect less of women than of men.

An Unworthy Campaign.

It is unfortunate that a certain section of our daily press should have taken advantage of the strain and excitement caused by the recent repeated air raids to attempt to stir up a spirit of "hatefulness" on the German model in our own people. We should like to protest particularly against certain cartoons in which German children are depicted wondering why they are not attacked, and rejoicing in their immunity. It is difficult to read into these anything but an attempt to incite English people to demand the bombing of German children.

The Local Government Franchise for Married Women.

Parliament will reassemble on October 16th, and shortly after that date (possibly almost immediately, more probably after a few weeks) the Representation of the People Bill will pass through its remaining stages in the Commons, and be sent up to the Lords. Failing some extraordinary mischance, such as a Government crisis forcing a dissolution of Parliament, the safety of the Bill, and with it of the clause giving the Parliamentary Franchise to women, seems assured.

But readers of The Common Cause should remember that there still remains something for them to do if the Bill is to be placed on the Statute-book in the most satisfactory form that is practically possible. The clause dealing with the Local Government Franchise must be extended so as to enable the married woman to vote on her husband's qualification as occupier. Mr. Charles Roberts's amendment to this effect was so favourably received by the House of Commons when the Bill was passing through Committee that there is good reason to hope that it may be accepted and incorporated in the Bill on the Report stage, provided that the women of the country show that they desire it. The Societies of the National Union have already received a circular from headquarters advising them what steps to take. It is greatly to be hoped that every woman's society, and many societies of men interested in the matter, will pass resolutions at forthcoming meetings in favour of this amendment, and it is urgent that the attention of all such societies should be immediately directed to the question.

Officers of Suffrage Societies who are distracted by the number of claims on their time, are sometimes inclined to excuse themselves for inertia in this matter on the ground that the National Union exists to obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for women, and that this other matter may be left to the societies interested specially in Local Government. But this is surely a shallow and inadequate defence. The National Union, with its thirteen federations and its five hundred-odd societies, has a machinery for arousing interest over the whole surface of the country which is not possessed by any other political organisation of women, and its responsibility is proportionately great. Further, we must all acknowledge that the Parliamentary Franchise and the Local Government Franchise are the indispensable complements of each other. To repeat a metaphor that has been used before in this connection, they are related to each other as the head is related to the hands and the feet. Most of the improvements in social legislation that women have struggled for are entrusted for administration to local authorities, and in very many cases they are merely permissive, as the local authority is allowed, but not compelled, to exercise its powers.

Infant welfare, education, housing, the functions of the police with regard to prostitution and the protection of young girls, the appointment or the refusal to appoint women police, women sanitary inspectors, women doctors in municipal institutions—all these matters, and many more in which women are vitally concerned, rest with the local authorities.

In all, the period of reconstruction will bring an opportunity for great developments; in some the developments have already begun. Nothing would so accelerate the pace and secure that it is upon the right lines as the admission of married women to the local franchise. Until that takes place, we can expect no substantial increase in the number of women members of local authorities, and many reforms will not be carried out at all simply because the male voters are not sufficiently interested in them to supply the needed impetus. To take one subject only—that of child welfare—the stimulus that would be given by the admission of the married working-class mother to the franchise would be so great that it is probably no exaggeration to say that it would mean the saving of many thousands of infant lives every year.

Grave, indeed, will be the responsibility on the organised women of the country if this opportunity is lost for the want of a little energy during the next few weeks. The excuse of "war work" is no excuse at all for neglecting the ordinary duties of citizenship and Suffragists, who have always protested against the assumption that women could not take part in political functions without its interfering with their domestic or professional work, should be the last to put forward such a plea.

The Middle-Class Girl.

There is one member of society whom it is perhaps more difficult to reach by impersonal appeal than any other. This is the average middle-class girl. Her education ceases at seventeen or eighteen; she continues to live at home for the greater part of the year; her duties comprise helping in the house, shopping with her mother, paying calls, going to occasional dances, and little else beside. She takes no interest in politics. She probably knows something of local labour conditions from helping with her mother's charities, but knowledge of the wider aspects of the labour question she would scarcely consider "good form." In a word, she is charming and useless.

Hitherto it has been the custom to leave her to her charm and uselessness, and when some great reform has been in progress any attempts made to elicit an opinion from her have been sporadic. Now she has suddenly come into prominence. The war has made an appeal to her, neither abstract nor impersonal. Her brothers are on active service; her home-life is entirely altered; war-work and knowledge of the war has become "the thing." The middle-class girl has of her own accord stepped into the world of labour and so of politics.

She has not only become a person to be reckoned with, but a person to be reckoned with at once; for, in spite of the many valuable services she is giving to the country, there is one sphere of patriotic work in which the middle-class girl threatens to do the nation an irreparable injury. In her ignorance she is breaking down the wage-structure of the labour world of to-day in such a way as will enormously retard industrial reconstruction after the war.

I refer to the work which is being done by a great number of girls who are not dependent only upon what they earn. The majority of girl war-workers—exclusive of those who are nursing—are employed as clerks. Many of these girls receive allowances from their parents, or have private means of their own. They therefore cheerfully accept a salary of perhaps 25s. a week, their conscience being perfectly easy in the knowledge that they are replacing men who are at the Front, even if they are not doing work directly necessitated by the war.

At the moment the effect of this attitude is not serious. The demand for labour is still so much in excess of the supply that wages are kept at a sufficiently high level. But after the war there will be a surfeit of labour. Prices will still be high. The middle-class girl will still have to earn. Her parents will still make her an allowance. She will still be willing to work for 25s.

The position of the self-dependent worker becomes serious. She must live on her wages. If they are reduced, it is impossible. Yet the worker who is not self-dependent is continually under-selling her and driving down the wage-rate. It is useless for her to demand more. No office that can get its work done by ardent flappers for 25s. a week, plus a little patriotic conscience-balm, will readily pay more. In her selfish ignorance the patriotic war-worker will have succeeded in driving the regular worker to starvation.

Middle-class girls must be brought to some realisation of what they are doing. From the moment they enter the working class they must consider themselves responsible members. They must identify themselves with the ordinary working girl They must get rid of the attitude of mind that looks at a wage only as so much extra money to spend. They must view it as a living wage, and—now when it is easy, and after the war, when it will be difficult—if it is inadequate they must refuse it. Wages must rise if all wage-earners refuse to work until they do. Individual protest is useless when there is always someone who will accept the work which another has refused; but if one girl could refuse work at a salary below living wage with the sure knowledge that every other girl to whom it was offered would do the same, her refusal would be effective.

The patriotic worker need not fear that she is injuring the country in refusing her services and demanding a higher wage than she herself perhaps requires. The State's first duty is to pay its workers a living wage if only in its own interest, since otherwise their work will be inefficient. If any individual, having

rivate means beyond her weekly earnings, is left with a superfluity of wealth she can easily return it to the State, either by investing in the War Loan or in some other way. Meanwhile, the truest patriotism is that which looks beyond the exigencies of the war to the continuous well-being of the nation, which is the well-being of its members. This is only assured if the individual worker can, by his or her labour, earn at least enough to keep him or herself in health and efficiency. If women are now, when labour is at a premium, receiving insufficient pay, how much worse will be their position when war industries terminate and the demand for labour becomes normal? Unless they stand out for a living wage now, they will be unable to do so then. In the national interest, to facilitate post-war reconstruction and minimise distress, women must make a determined effort to keep wages to a proper level.

Inez M. Ferguson.

Providing for the Future.

For a woman dependent on her own earnings the problem of making provision for her old age is by no means easy. Indeed, most women earn so little that they are apt to give up the problem in despair, and trust either that some unexpected windfall will come their way, or that they will be able to keep on working until the very end. Thus many a woman worker ends her days in pitiful destitution, or becomes an unwelcome burden to friends or relatives.

Yet if only women would begin to put by when they are quite young, a small sum yearly saved would accumulate to quite a substantial amount, which could be invested in an annuity if there were no dependents to provide for. The longer the question of providing for the future is put off, the more difficult it becomes.

The safest, and one of the most profitable, forms of saving is by means of an assurance policy with an office of thoroughly good standing.* With most investments that pay a high rate of interest, there is an element of risk attached. The purchaser of stocks and shares needs to understand such matters, and know when to buy and when to sell; and what the woman worker wants above all is absolute safety for her little hoard. This, of course, is provided by the Post Office Savings Bank, which is very useful for the temporary depositing of small sums of money, but the rate of interest paid is so low that it is not advisable as a medium for more permanent saving. Many people find, also, that it is too easy to draw the money out. Sums put in with good resolutions to keep them there and add to them are often withdrawn in a few months to pay for something that would have been dispensed with if the money had been less readily accessible. An assurance policy can be turned into ready money if there is urgent need, but it is more trouble to arrange this than simply to take one's money out of the bank.

Endowment Policies.

Before going any further, it may be well to explain what an Assurance Policy is. Many people seem to be under the impression that it covers only the payment to relatives of a certain sum on the death of the insured persons; but there are other forms of policy as well. A growing number of women now have others dependent on them, and will take out life assurance policies for their benefit, but the form of assurance that is most useful to the woman who needs to provide only for her own old age is an endowment policy. If she takes out one of these she will make an annual payment, called a Premium, in return for which the company undertakes to pay her a certain sum when she reaches a certain age. The amount of this premium varies according to age, and the premiums paid would be returned in the event of death before attaining the specified age. The younger a woman is when she insures, the smaller will be the yearly payment she has to make to secure a given sum.

Endowment Assurance.

This policy differs from an *Endowment Assurance*, which provides for the payment of the sum assured on the attainment of a specified age, or at previous death.

The following are some examples of rates:—

A premium of £20 a year, from the age of twenty-one, secures at the age of fifty-five, or at previous death, an endowment assurance of £909.

A premium of £10, from the age of twenty-one, will secure at the age of fifty-five, or at previous death, an endowment assurance of about £450.

Deferred Annuities.

Instead of arranging for the payment of a lump sum in her old age, a woman can secure a deferred annuity.

A premium of £19 2s. 8d., payable from the age of twenty-one annually, will secure at the age of fifty-five an annuity of £80 a year, with return of premiums paid in the event of death before that age.

An annual premium of £17 12s. 6d., payable from the age of twenty-one, will secure £52 a year, from the age of 50.

An endowment assurance is the better investment for a woman who may be glad to be able to leave a legacy to friends or relatives when she dies. Perhaps she has reasonable expectations of a legacy herself, that will, with the interest on the sum she will receive when her policy falls due, make adequate provision for her old age. Should she not receive the legacy after all, she can always invest her assurance money in an annuity when she receives it.

Securing a *Dot*.

Many young girls argue that it is not worth while for them to save because they will probably marry. But even if they do—and it must be remembered that the war has considerably decreased the likelihood of marriage—an assurance policy will not be wasted. On the contrary, it will come in very useful to buy the trousseau or help to furnish the home.

After a certain number of premiums (in most companies three) have been paid, a policy has its definite "surrender value" at each period, in proportion to the amount paid in. Thus, supppose a woman aged twenty-one takes out a policy for a deferred annuity, for which she pays a premium of £20, and at the age of thirty she becomes engaged to be married. She can surrender her policy and receive £189 down; a nice little sum that will be greatly welcome.

On the Continent a girl, however poor, brings a *dot* as her contribution to the expense of setting up housekeeping, and it would place English girls in a much more dignified and independent position if they were similarly provided.

Again, suppose, instead of getting married, the assurance policy-holder wants a little capital to help her to set up in business on her own account. At the age of forty (if she has been paying £20 a year since she was twenty-one) she will be entitled to £442 on surrendering her policy.

Or suppose she is in temporary difficulties, and wants a loan, she can easily raise one on her policy, or she can take out part of what she has paid in, and receive a smaller amount when the policy falls due. Some companies arrange loans themselves.

The purchasing of an annuity is also a profitable method of investing a small legacy. For instance, a single premium of £250 would secure for a woman aged twenty-one an annuity of about £48 at the age of fifty-five, or a cash sum of £682.

Many women workers are buying War Savings Certificates. When these are redeemed, the sum thus in hand might well be invested in a deferred annuity. The amounts I have taken to illustrate the principle of insurance may seem rather high for a woman worker to pay, but in many cases a girl of twenty-one would be helped by her parents for the first few years.

Assurance for Education.

Parents can also insure a sum for the education of their children by a small annual payment starting from infancy. For example:—

In the case of a parent or guardian of thirty next birthday and a child under one, the annual premium to secure six payments of £100 a year, commencing on the sixteenth birthday, would be £31 11s. 9d.

The maximum number of premiums payable would be fifteen, but should the parent or guardian die after the payment of one premium only, no more premiums would be required. In the event of the death of the child before the age of sixteen hte whole of the premiums paid would be returned, or between the ages sixteen and twenty-one (when one or more payments of the sum assured would have been made) a proportion of from five-sixths in the seventeenth year to one-sixth in the twenty-first year.

Thus assurance serves many purposes in addition to its best known functions of making provision for dependents. It provides for education, for a marriage portion, for capital to start in business, and for an old age pension.

M. M.

*It is advisable to make very careful enquiries before selecting an assurance office.

Chemistry as a Profession for Women.

II. Analytical Chemistry.

Engineering and chemistry go hand in hand, a fact which the Germans realised long before we did, and the best-paid position in the chemical profession is that of technical chemist. At present, the women who possess it have little chance to train their instinct for engineering, because the powers that be think that work which involves grease-covered hands and hair, and the climbing of ladders and cleaning of flues, is unsuitable for them, yet without any ability in that direction, it would be impossible for any man or woman to estimate whether the chemical improvement of a certain manufacturing process would increase or decrease the cost of the yield by a farthing per hundredweight.

A sound training in chemistry is invaluable, because its applications are innumerable; yet, before the war, many women who did not want to become teachers or lecturers feared that there would never be an opening for them in Analytical Chemistry. Now their opportunity has come. Some day there may also be women technical chemists, for women analysts have demonstrated their capabilities to various firms which had bigoted notions as to how much a woman can do.

The training for a degree in chemistry usually covers three years, the cost varying greatly according to the place of education. A university training is always the most expensive, and differs from that of a polytechnic as education differs from learning. At a polytechnic the student is most certainly well taught, but at the university she is encouraged to form her own ideas, and to rely upon herself rather than on her professor.

The Institute of Chemistry has done much for the chemical student. It bears much the same relation to the chemical profession as a trade union does to the labourer. After obtaining the associateship, a candidate is assisted to find a post, and the heads of the institute work together to see that suitable salaries are offered. Unfortunately, in many cases the remuneration given is below £150 per annum, but a graduate should not accept anything less; £120 is a very usual salary for routine work, which is generally of a simple nature.

Whilst pursuing her studies for a degree in chemistry, the student instinctively becomes practical in a many-sided manner. Analytical work is very pleasant, and is unaccompanied by the heavy work which goes with technical chemistry—in fact, its prosecution bears a close resemblance to the work of college days, because there is some scope for the powers of imagination of the analyst, provided that there is not too much routine.

Unfortunately, the powers concerned seem to underrate the intelligence of women, for in the laboratories of various factories fully qualified women may be employed on one process all the time, as, for example, estimation of moisture in butter, or volatile matter in solids, or specific gravity of nitric acid. All this is well enough for a bright matriculation student who, sooner or later, will decide to specialise in some branch of chemistry; but it would be absolutely soul-destroying to become reconciled to making such determinations for a lifetime. The only available way to relieve such very hum-drum monotony is to devise short cuts. The ingenuity which was displayed by a man, when he had to make a great many determinations at 60 deg. F., in centrifuging the thermometer, so that the mercury thread remained always at 60 deg., no matter what the temperature might be, is greatly to be commended.

The particular kind of analytical work which is easily the most interesting, without being too arduous, is the chemistry of foodstuffs, for it provides great variety, even in these days of regulation bread. The woman who is assistant to a public analyst meets with processes of varying degrees of ease or difficulty. She has, for instance, to detect adulteration in milk, excess of salt in meat, the relative quantities of bread and pig (or horse) in sausage, and of chicory and coffee in a mixture; to determine whether the dye in tinned salmon is harmless or not; to ascertain the number of grains per pound of arsenic in some foodstuffs, and the metallic impurities in canned foods.

For most of these processes, in addition to a knowledge of chemistry, familiarity with the microscope is exceedingly useful. For example, if it be found, chemically, that the quantity of fat in a sample of cocoa is low, and the starch is high, either fat has been removed or starch added. The microscope may be used as a means of confirming the latter alternative, for by its aid the outlines of foreign starch can be distinguished.

After a few years' experience in the analysis of foods, a woman should be successful as a public analyst, provided that she holds it in her power to make a good impression when giving evidence in court. Another promising opening for her would be as factory inspector, for she could turn to account her knowledge of the ways in which goods are likely to be contaminated.

The chemistry of photography, accompanied as it is by researches in physics, opens up a field which should provide a fund of interest for many. The analysis of drugs and patent medicines should be equally engrossing. An analyst, in her daily work, has to go through such processes as weighing out accurately small quantities of a substance, the construction of apparatus, making observations with the spectroscope, polarimeter, and other optical instruments, and research for improvement in the methods of experiment, keeping, all the time, a record of every detail of the procedure and every observation made. It is satisfactory for each to do her own washing up—except in the case of routine work where the laboratory boys are kept busy with it all day—so that she may be convinced that each beaker is chemically clean, and thereby the difficulty which the laboratory boy has of not realising that evaporating basins and flasks do not bounce, is overcome. Chemistry has an overwhelming advantage over office work. In the latter, the workers are glued to their desks, and intercourse between them is the exception rather than the rule. The analyst, whilst evaporating down a solution, or waiting until a substance has reduced itself to an ash, can discuss the latest researches, and so continue her education.

Those who love chemistry for itself, and not merely as a means for earning a living, cannot fail to appreciate the wonderful phenomena explained by hypotheses which fit in so extraordinarily well with one another. For within the domain of chemistry, the marvels wrought by the forces of Nature can be admired in a way which is not possible to those who see them from the outside merely. It is said of technical chemistry that the student must unlearn what was taught at college, yet in the case of analytical chemistry but one more step has to be traversed after leaving academic work, and that is the application of theory to practice.

It is certain that the number of chemical industries in this country will increase, hence the prospects of chemistry after the war are very hopeful, and there should be a great demand for qualified women analysts.

Eileen M. Chatt.

[Particulars of training for analytical chemistry and other occupations can be obtained from the Women's Service Bureau, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.]

OUR "COMMON CAUSE" SCHOLARSHIP.

In connection with Miss Dorothy Haynes's article in our issue of September 28th on Industrial Chemistry as a Profession for Women, the readers of The Common Cause may take a legitimate pride in the fact that last year they furnished a sum for two scholarships for enabling women to pursue the studies necessary for becoming qualified for commercial chemistry. Only one of these scholarships has at present been awarded. Satisfactory progress is reported regarding the student who obtained it.

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Reviews.

A Defence of Idealism. By May Sinclair.
[Published by Macmillan & Co., 12s. net.]

It used to be said of Henry and William James, that one was a novelist who wrote novels that were really philosophical treatises, and the other was a philosopher who wrote philosophical treatises which were really novels. Miss Sinclair is a novelist turned philosopher and her philosophy is as good reading as most novels and easier reading than most modern ones. The "Defence of Idealism" is a stimulating book. It may be enjoyed by many who do not think of themselves as students of philosophy, and it may have the further effect of making them read the philosophers whose theories are criticised in its pages. For although Miss Sinclair has a thesis of her own to maintain, her method is mainly critical. In a series of brilliant essays she examines the "Pan-Psychism of Samuel Butler," the "Vitalism of M. Bergson," the "Animism of Mr. McDougall," the "Pragmatism and Humanism" of William James and Mr. F. C. S. Schiller, and the "New Realism," whose most brilliant exponent is Mr. Bertrand Russell. She points out the difficulties in the way of these systems and in doing so makes the systems appear so interesting that many lay persons will probably be induced to study them. Of course, really lay persons will occasionally find themselves out of their depth, even in Miss Sinclair's very clear exposition of the Philosophers; occasionally, too, they will feel that impatience which is apt to arise in the mind of the Plain Man (and the Plain Woman too) when he, or she, is worried with metaphysics.

Most of us who are not philosophers are convinced that there are a few things which we can and do know about the ultimate realities of life. Many of us are equally convinced that there is a vast realm of ultimate reality about which we *can* know nothing in this state of existence, and about which it is therefore quite useless to try to think. There is really plenty of untrodden country between the convictions which are our home and the undiscoverable land, and it is into this country that it is the business of the philosophers to lead us, but there are moments when they seem not to be leading us anywhere, but only playing a game, and it is then that we grow impatient. Miss Sinclair quite understands this feeling and that is part of her charm. Very early in the book, she captures the sympathy of the plain person. Her criticism of the philosophies ought, of course, to be answered by the philosophers. Samuel Butler, to whom she comes close in theory, would also sympathise with her temperament. She says of him that "the undeserved neglect of his scientific work is probably owing to his incurable habit of being amusing, not mildly and academically, but startlingly, recklessly, extravagantly amusing throughout the whole course of a serious argument. What was the scientific world of the 'seventies and 'eighties to think of a man who could dream of immortalising his address on Memory as a key to the phenomenon of Heredity under the title of 'Clergyman and Chickens?' . . . I am afraid that even at this moment Psychoanalysts who can talk about the 'Polymorphous perverse' and 'Father-Imago' without the ghost of a smile will have no use for Butler either." Miss Sinclair is much nearer to Samuel Butler than to the Psychoanalysts. Of William James, she says that she abhors his way of thinking and adores his way of writing. She finds that discovering dilemmas in M. Bergson's philosophy is "an enthralling occupation," but leaves no solid satisfaction behind. It does not, as Samuel Butler would say, give you "peace at the last." "What do a few logical dilemmas more or less matter in the work of a poet or a seer? I said just now that Vitalism was a robust philosophy; it is nothing of the sort. It is subtle, exquisite, fragile. To try to analyse it, to break through that texture of beautiful imagination, is to lay violent hands on a living palpitating thing that endures only on the condition that you do not handle it."

It is on the new realism that her attack is most vigorous, but no system has at the present time, got strong defenders, and Miss Sinclair's criticism of it is perhaps somewhat weakened by the fact that, as she herself freely owns, she is not a mathematician. Her tilt with Mr. Bertrand Russell, will be watched with interest even by those who do not enter into the details of her criticism. The difference between those who believe that ultimate reality is one and those who believe that it is manifold, is as old as human thought. It revives in different forms in the different generations, and will never be settled; but it is always interesting to those who care for such a thing at all.

The most convincing chapter in the book is—it seems to us—the one called the "New Mysticism." Thought can follow thought, but mysticism is an experience, and it may be that it is as vain for those who have not experienced it to reason about it as for those who are born blind to talk about sight. Yet it is always fascinating to talk about, and this chapter is enthralling as well as unconvincing. Two remarks must be added, one that the book would be much improved if it had an index—even a table of contents—and the other that no one who belongs to the select race of cat lovers must fail to read page 109, which contains a delightful story about Miss Sinclair's cat. From that page they will probably be led on as they might be by the cat himself, through winding but attractive ways; they will not quite know whether the author is leading them anywhere, or only playing the philosophic game. When they reach the last paragraph, they will probably be convinced that (like the cat?) she is an artist first and foremost and that it is in that capacity that she has come nearest to the certainties that count. And like the cat she is undoubtedly playing a game.

I.B.O.M.

A "COMMON CAUSE" HUT IN FRANCE.

Who will help us to provide a hut for women workers who are going out to France?

The winter will soon be here. Already the days are drawing in, and women and girls working in a foreign country will need a place for rest, recreation, and cheerful society even more than those who are busy at home.

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So please send your donation TO-DAY.

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Some of the drawing-room meetings organised by our Societies in aid of the Coventry Hut were most successful, and we feel sure that equal interest could be aroused in our new venture.

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Further donations should be sent to The Editor, The Common Cause, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

[*In the table of contents in our last issue it was wrongly stated that* The Common Cause *Hut is for women* munition *workers in France. The Hut is intended for British women working with the W.A.A.C., V.A.D.s, and in other capacities.*]

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Friday, Oct. 5th.	3 p.m.	SOCIAL SCIENCE: "Practice and Research."	Prof. Bernard Bosanquet.
Tuesday, Oct 9th.	10 a.m.	FRENCH: "The Tristram Legend in Old French Literature."	Miss F. C. Johnson, M.A.
Tuesday, Oct. 9th.	11 a.m.	FRENCH: "History of the French Language: The Life of Words."	Miss F. C. Johnson, M.A.
Tuesday, Oct. 9th.	12 noon	FRENCH: "L'histoire en France au XIX Siècle."	Prof. G. Rudler, D. ès. L.
Wednesday, Oct. 10th.	3 p.m.	ENGLISH: "The Characteristics of XX Century Poetry."	Prof. C. E. Spurgeon. D. Univ. Paris.

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Subject: Public Health Acts.
Chair: Lady Horsley.

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October 1st. Inaugural Meeting. The Ratcliff Settlement, Stepney.
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October 4th. Upper Norwood, The Daughters of the Empire Club.
October 10th. Britannia Row, Islington.
October 17th. King's Cross, St. Pancras.
October 22nd, East Islington.
October 23rd. Junction Road, North Islington.
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Oct. 19th. "Probation of Offenders, Recognisances, Remand and Bail." Mr. Theodore Dodd, J.P.
Oct. 26th. "Police Court Procedure and Rights of Public in Courts." Mr. F. W. Pethick Lawrence
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Can we Safely Try to Improve the Women's Clauses of the Representation of the People Bill?

By Mrs. Fawcett.

For many weeks after the Report of the Speaker's Conference had appeared, and the Bill founded upon it had been drafted, I answered this question in the negative; but now I unhesitatingly answer it in the affirmative, and I should like to explain to our Societies and friends who read The Common Cause the reason for my change of view.

At first all the best friends of Women's Suffrage who had conducted the campaign on our behalf in the House of Commons and on the Speaker's Conference, warned us that there was great danger of losing everything which we stood to win if we departed from the compromise which the Report of the Speaker's Conference represented. They told us that it was a carefully constructed and delicately balanced structure, and if we tried to change it we might bring down the whole edifice about our ears. This point of view was confirmed by the Prime Minister when we introduced our deputation to him on March 29th. The wise saw, "Striving to better oft we mar what's well," was often in our minds.

But a good deal has happened since then to make us feel more confident of our position. Most important in their general effect upon Women's Suffrage were the immense majorities by which the principle was affirmed by the House of Commons. It will be remembered that the Second Reading of the whole Bill was carried in May by 329 to forty, a majority of more than eight to one. Then in Committee stage, when the clause enfranchising women was debated and voted upon, the numbers were 385 to fifty-five, or seven to one, and the final division on the whole clause as amended (June 20th, 1917) was 214 to seventeen, or about twelve and a-half to one. These figures very greatly strengthened our position. They showed that opposition to women's enfranchisement was almost extinct in the House of Commons. What had been a rickety and delicately balanced structure was now a firmly planted tower.

We therefore regarded the proposal to amend the clause enfranchising women by extending the municipal vote to married women in virtue of their husbands' names being on the Local Government Register as one which might be urged without risking any chance of defeat upon the Parliamentary vote. Such a change does not in any way upset the agreement which has been reached upon the Parliamentary vote. We consulted friends inside the House of Commons who encouraged us to believe that the House as a whole would readily accept the same principle as regards the municipal vote which it had endorsed by such large majorities as regards the Parliamentary vote. One of these friends undertook to see the Home Secretary on the subject, and sent us a report that Sir George Cave appeared sympathetic to the proposed amendment. Our friends in the House thoroughly understand that we only desire to press further amendments if we can do so without risk to the Bill as a whole or to the clause giving the Parliamentary vote to women.

We have watched with some anxiety rumours which appeared in the Press in the early autumn that the enemies of women's suffrage, while avoiding a frontal attack, might try to defeat us on a side issue; for instance, by holding up the whole Bill on the excuse that the Reform of the House of Lords and the Report of the Convention now sitting in Ireland should first be dealt with.

The Trade Union Congress passed an urgent resolution against any such delay in dealing with the question of the Representation of the People, and on Friday, September 28th, the Prime Minister received a deputation representing the National Labour Party Executive and the Trades Union Con-

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gress, protesting against any delay in passing the Bill into law. Mr. Lloyd George's reply was more reassuring :—

"He trusted they would have no need to be apprehensive of the Bill, because it was the intention of the Government to afford every facility for its early passing into law. The Government had not swerved one iota with regard to their interest in the measure, the urgent necessity of which was apparent to them all."—*Times*, September 29th, 1917.

The "urgent necessity" to which the Prime Minister referred is caused by the fact that at the present moment there is no Parliamentary Register on which it would be possible to take a general election. It is an "urgent necessity" to create such a register, and the Representation of the People Bill provides for its creation.

Any one of the considerations just mentioned, taken by itself, would justify us in trying to improve the Bill in so far as it affects the position of married women in municipal elections; but taken together they represent an overwhelmingly strong case, and we do very earnestly urge our societies to bring the subject before their Executive Committees, and to pass resolutions, to be sent to Sir George Cave, urging him to accept on behalf of the Government an amendment which will be moved on Report Stage by Mr. Roberts, M.P. for Lincoln, to apply the same principle to the women's municipal vote which the House has already accepted by such overwhelming majorities as regards the Parliamentary vote.

Human Values.

THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1916 OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.*

The Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, issued last week, ought to be studied by every Suffragist and every social reformer. Sir George Newman has the art of presenting his facts in a literary form which makes them as easy to assimilate as they are vitally important. The introduction in which he describes the origin and development of the School Sanitary Service, is so full of condensed and lucid information that we should like to reprint it in full. There are about six million children now attending school in this country, and Sir George Newman makes clear to us what is being done to promote their healthy development, what is being attempted, and what he thinks ought to be attempted in the future not for them only, but for the babes who are not yet of school-age, and for those who are yet unborn. His ideal is a complete beneficent system of schools for mothers, day nurseries, nursery schools, medical inspection, school clinics, sanatoriums, special schools, health visiting, &c.; all closely linked up and watching over the child from the time it is conceived to the time when it reaches adult life. This system should be worked by, or rather should consist of, intelligent and devoted human beings, who will treat the child not as a case, but as an individual, and will not be satisfied till they have done all that is humanly possible to make him a healthy, happy, and valuable citizen. We are of course, a long way from having realised such a system, and many of the efforts that were being made have been interrupted or frustrated by the war, but it is a great thing to have the aims of those who treat education from the point of view of health clearly set out.

The report is divided into sections, dealing with the school medical service, the care and training of children under five, medical inspection in 1916, dental disease, special schools, open-air education, the teaching of mothercraft, physical education, the provision of meals, and the control of juvenile employment.

The first section shows how severely the School Medical Service has suffered by the curtailment of staff caused by the necessities of military service. It also describes the valuable co-operation teachers are giving in medical work. In connection with school attendance, which Sir George Newman considers to be, in the main, a medical problem, he urges that the school attendance officer should wherever possible be a Woman Health Visitor, who will be able while carrying out her duties to give the mothers valuable help and advice. This has been tried in the Borough of Taunton, where no men attendance officers have been employed for the past five years, and where the percentage of school attendance has steadily risen.

In the very interesting section dealing with young children, Sir George Newman tells us that "at present the physical and mental well-being of children under five years of age, and particularly of children from twelve months to five years, is neither adequately nor satisfactorily provided for." "The age at which attendance at the elementary school becomes compulsory is five years, but education authorities have the option of admitting children at three years. For the past few years there has been a growing tendency among Education Authorities to exclude children under five from school, a tendency which has increased since the outbreak of war." Of a possible two million children under five, only a quarter of a million are now in attendance at infant schools. While allowing that if conditions are satisfactory, home is the proper place for a child under five, Sir George Newman is strongly in favour of day nurseries or *crèches*, and of special nursery schools for little children whose mothers have to go out to work, or for other reasons cannot devote themselves to their care and training.

In the succeeding sections statistics and particulars are given of sanitary conditions and medical treatment of children of school age. One of the conclusions is that "a study of this great business of the medical treatment of children brings into striking relief the comprehensive and manifold services of nurses, teachers, and Care Committees." "I am convinced," says Sir George Newman, "that their work is invaluable and indispensable."

About one per cent. of the total school population are blind, deaf, defective, and epileptic. In Section VI. an account is given of the provision that is made for them. Unfortunately there is still only accommodation for teaching about half the mentally defective children, of whom there are now between 25,000 and 30,000 in England and Wales.

This section is followed by a very interesting chapter on "Open-Air Education," giving particulars of special open-air schools, residential and non-residential, and of arrangements for open-air classes in ordinary schools.

The teaching of mothercraft is advocated in Section VIII. not only for the sake of the child, but for the sake of the mother.

"The more unsatisfactory and unwholesome the housing conditions, the more necessary is it for a working mother to know how to keep her baby in reasonably good health, partly for its own personal well-being, but also for her own sake, so that in her overfull life she may be spared the avoidable anxiety and trouble caused by sickness due to improper care of herself and her child. It may be admitted at once that a knowledge of mothercraft is not a cure for all evils associated with infant mortality, but when one observes what sound common sense, well-informed understanding, and methodical care can do for mother and baby in the most unpromising surroundings, it seems deplorable that any mother should lack the elementary knowledge and equipment necessary to enable her to give herself and baby the best chance of health and life. . . . The fundamental requirement of healthy infancy, which is the door of childhood and school life, is *healthy motherhood* combined with *the art and practice of Mothercraft*."

We cannot linger over the chapters which deal with Physical Education and the Provision of School Meals, important and interesting as these are, because we must turn at once to the vital and urgent question treated in the concluding portion of the report—*i.e.*, the employment of children in wage-earning work. Sir George Newman considers that at the present time we are heavily mortgaging the future of our race. He says :—

"The increase of the employment of children and young persons in 1915-1917 in munition work and otherwise has demonstrated beyond all question or doubt that many boys and girls are spoilt physically, mentally, and morally—

"(*a*) By their too early enlistment in the ranks of the employed;

"(*b*) by lack of guidance in the choice of occupations suited to their physical and mental capacity;

"(*c*) by inadequate opportunities of skilled training; and

"(*d*) by insufficient safeguarding and husbanding of their physical powers and resources."

The harm done is all the more dangerous because it does not appear as "gross immediate physical injury" but produces a slow but steady deterioration of health in large sections of our juvenile population.

Sir George Newman produces ample evidence to support his contentions that *a very large number of children* are being

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prematurely employed; many of them pass through the strain of employment apparently uninjured, but *the physical injury which manifests itself, though insidious and inconspicuous, is far-reaching.* He says:—

"The history of child-labour in England from the end of the eighteenth century to the present time is not a creditable story. The student of the records will gladly recognise that an immense advance has taken place in humanitarian sentiment and in solicitude for the child's welfare. But alongside such sympathy there went, then as now, advocacy of child-labour. Then as now, interested critics declared, first, that the employment of the children was easy, light, and popular; secondly, that the alleged abuses did not exist, or were exaggerated; thirdly, that if they did exist, they were the necessary evils inseparable from industrial progress; and lastly, that if child-labour was abolished on account of such disadvantages, greater evils would arise. But the facts are against them. The official Parliamentary Reports of 1816, 1819, and 1832, and the Factory Commission Reports of 1833 and 1842, furnish overwhelming medical evidence of the gravity of physical injury due to the premature and prolonged employment of children. The most eminent physicians and surgeons at the beginning of the nineteenth century repeatedly gave evidence identical with that provided by the school medical service. There is now a century of proof. Nor must we forget when we compare present conditions with the cruelties of the early industrial systems that the number of children then affected was a mere fraction of those affected to-day—that the standard of comfort nowadays is higher, the expectation of life longer, and the death-rate lower, and that the equipment required by, and the responsibility of the citizen to-day is vastly ahead of what it was a hundred years ago. Human values have risen."

It is to raise human values that The Common Cause exists. We urge our readers to study Sir George Newman's report and to consider their responsibility as citizens towards the subject of which it treats.

I. B. O'Malley.

THE NEED FOR WOMEN DOCTORS.

The advance made by women in the medical profession, and the crying need for recruits, has been doubly emphasised this week. In distributing prizes at the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, Dr. Addison, Minister of Reconstruction, expressed his great satisfaction with the result of the hospital's first year's experiment of admitting women students on exactly the same terms as men. It is not only an act of justice, but of national wisdom, since statistics make it evident that the recruiting of male students in the coming years will not be sufficient to cover the ordinary civil wastage of doctors, irrespective of the gigantic war wastage.

At the opening of the new session at the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, the Dean, Miss Aldrich-Blake, stated that there were 110 new students, so that there were now 450 students in the school. Out of the five medical women honoured with the Order of the British Empire, four came from the London School, and Dr. Ivens, who recently received the Legion of Honour, was a former student.

Dr. Garrett Anderson spoke of medicine as not only the finest profession open to women, but the best preparation for public life. Medical women were called upon more and more to take part in public life; so they should learn committee work and the art of public speaking. When an opportunity arose to do some service for their country they should not shirk it. Only the other day a message came that the Indian Government had asked women graduates, former students of that school, to equip and manage one of the largest military hospitals in Bombay.

A STATE-AIDED MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

A scheme for a State-aided midwifery service has been put forward by the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives, and has been also generally approved by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses and the Incorporated Midwives' Institute as a basis for necessary legislation.

The promoters point out that, though the importance of an adequate midwifery service has been increasingly realised of late years, there is a growing shortage of qualified women, especially in rural areas, and urge that aid should be given from public funds to increase the remuneration of the midwife.

Correspondence.

WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Madam,—Though after the vote is won Women's Citizens Associations on the lines laid down by the writer of the article in your issue of September 28th can do very useful work, I think there will also be a need for a big National Union of women citizens to carry on a campaign for the education of women voters, and also to protect women's interests and promote legislation for the benefit of women and children. Associations formed by local effort could work independently as regards the affairs of their own district; in such matters, for instance, as obtaining a larger number of women upon the municipal councils, securing better housing, more health visitors, or any other question they chose to take up. But by affiliating to a big Union they would obtain better educational facilities and greater influence. In their turn they could supply the Central Organisation with information as to conditions in the special industries of their district, and could call attention to any local case that seemed to illustrate the need for reform either of the law or its administration. Thus they would help to make the work of a Central Organisation more thorough and far-reaching.

At Council Meetings of such an Association political and social questions would be discussed as they arose, and action would be agreed upon with regard to some at least of them. In this way branch societies would obtain a much greater driving force than if they worked as scattered units without cohesion. Of course, there would be many questions on which it would not be possible for an association consisting of people of all sorts of different shades of political opinion to come to a working agreement. But an immense impetus would be gained for those reforms for which a big association of women could agree to work; and the bigger the Association, the larger the number of its branches, the greater its power would be.

Women Citizens' Associations could be formed in two ways. First, as suggested by Miss Ward, by local effort, the society affiliating to a Central Organisation if it chose. Secondly, in districts where no local organiser was forthcoming, by the initiative of the Central Association, who would arrange for an organiser to go down and try to start a society. Even where the women of a particular town had succeeded in starting an association they might be glad of the help of a trained organiser from Headquarters, and glad, too, to have experienced speakers sent down to lecture on special subjects.

I think there will be a very great need for women to continue to combine and organise nationally, as well as locally, and that we shall lose a great deal of our potential influence as voters if we fail to do so.

A. M. M.

THE WOMEN OF SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Madam,—Chance delayed my reading The Common Cause for July 20th until yesterday, and I am delighted with the article on Jane Austen. But why should the writer (with whose admiration for Jane Austen I thoroughly agree), in comparing Scott's women with Miss Austen's, class them all as "Elegant females"? Is this sweeping judgment fair? Is it not, on the contrary, ludicrously unfair? True enough it is that Scott was strongly influenced in his portraiture of women by the ideals of his time, a weakness which reaches a climax of absurdity when he describes Julia Mannering and Lucy Bertram "leaning upon each other's arm and yet occasionally stumbling between fear and disorder of their nerves" as they go back to Woodbourne after meeting with Meg Merrilies. The terror of the girls is, of course, simply a device to heighten the "wild sublimity" of the picture of the gipsy. But when Scott followed his own judgment, he depicted women of energy and courage, fully equal to Jane Austen's, or indeed to those of any modern writer. Take Ellen Douglas, in the scene in the guardroom of Stirling Castle, facing the rough mercenary soldiers, or Constance Beverley meeting the living death within the tomb with dauntless courage, or the Jewess Rebecca, wise, learned, a skilful surgeon, a pure and noble woman. There is one wonderful touch in Scott's description of her when led into the lists at Templestowe: "On her first glance at the terrible spot where preparations were making" for her cruel death, "she shuddered and shut her eyes"; but "in the space of a minute she opened her eyes, looked fixedly at the pile as if to familiarise her mind with the object, and then slowly and naturally turned away her head." Is this an "elegant female"? Or is Die Vernon, as spirited in action as wise in counsel, an "elegant female"? True, Sir Walter finds it advisable to apologise for Die's masculine education. She had, he tells us, passed unharmed through the dangerous classical studies by which the wily Rashleigh had sought to corrupt her mind. Lucy Bertram, with praiseworthy prudence, had declined the simple-minded Dominie's offer to guide her steps in the same perilous paths. Such were the ideas of Scott's time as regarded girls' education, but when Scott followed his own original ideas, he gave us portraits of women which can never be excelled for courage, wisdom, and nobleness.

L. I. Lumsden.

[We did not intend to imply that all Scott's women were "elegant females" but only that in describing his heroines he was influenced by the ideals of his time. Julia Mannering and Lucy Bertram are eighteenth-century in a sense to which that adjective cannot be applied to Jane Austen's heroines. Ellen Douglas and Rebecca, and Diana Vernon, like Shakespeare's heroines, belong to all time.—Ed., C.C.]

HELPERS FOR GIRLS' CLUBS.

Madam,—Club workers are arranging schemes for the Autumn, and from every side there comes into the office of the National Organisation of Girls' Clubs—118, Great Titchfield Street, W. 1—requests for teachers in every kind of subject, including domestic economy subjects, technical subjects, art subjects, languages, and literature. The girls are anxiously looking for help in order that they may make up for the fact that they left school when they were fourteen years old. We also need help in the recreational part of club work. We appeal to all those who have a little time to give, as well as those who are looking out for an opportunity of sharing their own special educational advantages with others.

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The Lancet, Dec. 16th, 1916.

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WINTER

is fast approaching, and if the "Common Cause" Hut for France is to be erected in time to shelter the girls from the cold and wet and snow

your help towards making up the money is URGENTLY NEEDED.

£234 3s. 6d. has already been sent in

by our readers of "The Common Cause," but

£665 16s. 6d. is still needed

to complete the total of £900 required to build, equip and maintain the hut for one year.

When the brave girls of the Women's Auxiliary Army arrive in France, the happiest welcome they can have is at a Y.W.C.A. hut, where they can get rest and refreshment and the companionship of their own countrywomen. Would you not like to help towards providing such a hut, which is very urgently needed?

A "Common Cause" HUT for FRANCE.

The Young Women's Christian Association have asked the Editor of "The Common Cause" to provide one of these huts, to be paid for and supported entirely by readers of this journal, and to be called "The Common Cause" Hut.

Please send your donation NOW.

The total amount asked for is £900, which is made up as follows:—
£500 TO PROVIDE THE HUT.
£200 TO EQUIP IT.
£200 TO MAINTAIN IT FOR 1 YEAR.
£900 (Total)

Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be addressed to the Editor of "The Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

To the Editor of "The Common Cause,"
14, Gt. Smith St., Westminster, S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

I enclose my "bit" towards "The Common Cause" Hut for our Girls in France, viz.: _____

wishing it every success.

Signed _____

Address _____

THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR.

The Sheffield Society is setting its mind to grapple with the question that now confronts every Suffragist, and particularly every member of the N.U.: "What should we be doing to prepare ourselves for our responsibility as women voters?" This complex question is usually faced from one of two angles—the educational or the political. All who consider the influence that the N.U. has had on the lives of many individuals must be struck by the educational power of our Union; few other women's organisations, if any, can show a parallel record of success in uniting different views and temperaments and beliefs, and in teaching the women who hold them to work together for a public end. In many a district in our country this educational power of the N.U. still remains its greatest force, and it should be our care in all our plans for the future to preserve it. Another side of the N.U. will strike others prominently—its leadership and its political success. To them the N.U. has been the chief means of bringing home to the nation and to the Government the need for Women's Suffrage, and they would above all things make sure of its organisation for securing the settlement of other questions of urgent social reform directly affecting women's interests. That side of the N.U. should also be preserved in all plans for the future. As a Society the N.U. has to face the problem of how to retain educational force and political influence without tyrannising minorities or losing unity. The Sheffield branch of the N.U. is facing the problem actively by a campaign on a comprehensive scale.

A series of drawing-room meetings in different residential districts in the town has been planned with a view of gathering in many non-members, and of arousing interest among future women voters who have not so far necessarily troubled themselves greatly about the Suffrage or other women's questions. On September 22nd, the first of these meetings, held in the house of the President, at Ecclesall Grange, assembled about seventy people from the immediate neighbourhood of whom a comparatively small proportion were members. Speeches from Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, Chairman, Mrs. Leathes, Mrs. Annot Robinson, and Canon Houghton, the Vicar of the parish, drew attention to the responsibility of women voters and to local needs. "That is just what we need—being made to think," a non-member was heard to say at the American tea after the meeting, which dispersed with a new sense of the necessity to make up one's mind about the pros and cons of a "woman's party," and the claims of the housing problem in Sheffield—a measure long overdue. It is hoped that a number of informal and friendly social meetings of this type will gather in many new members and work up to the climax of them all—a large conference under the auspices of all the Suffrage Societies working together of all women's organisations in Sheffield, to be held early in November, at which resolutions will be taken, and the minds of local Societies on the questions of the hour will be gauged. Expenses for the conference will be defrayed from the profits of sales held in connection with the meetings, the sale at Ecclesall Grange realising as much as £8 15s.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to September 20th, 1917	243,006	15	6
Further donations received to September 27th, 1917:—			
*Miss Rankine	50	0	0
*Per Miss Dalby, Hon. Treas. Birkenhead & District W.S.S., further for bed (Royaumont)	3	8	0
T. C. Dewar, Esq.	10	0	
Miss Nan B. D. Hendrie, The Scottish Nursing Home, Calgary, Alberta, Canada... ...	1	0	0
*Misses Hope	10	0	
*Per Mrs. Dunn, Hon. Sec. Gateshead W.S.S. (monthly subs.): Mr. and Mrs. Dunn (14s.), Gateshead W.S.S. (£1 10s.)	2	4	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Portland Forge Co. (£1 14s. 9d.), Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 8s. 10d.)	4	3	7
*Per Miss Beckett, Stand Grammar School, near Manchester, to continue bed at Royaumont...	12	10	9
*Per A. Scobie, Esq., further subscriptions from Rangoon	2	0	0
Miss C. G. Mitchell	1	1	0
*Per Mrs. H. Moncrieff: Result of Gift Watch Sale, £25 each for "Kilsyth and District" beds, Royaumont and Salonica; £12 2s. 1d. for Corsican Hospital	62	2	1
"An Organ Note"...	1	0	0
Anonymous	5	0	0
Per Miss Mary Badcock... ...		7	0
*Miss I. C. B. Young, per Messrs. L. & J. McLaren, W.S.	1	0	0
Misses Anderson (£2), Miss Trunbull (£1)	3	0	0
*Per Miss Isabelle Kerr, Hon. Sec. Greenock Local Com., 14th instal. from Waste Paper Scheme (£500 already received)	100	0	0
	£243,236	11	2

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Kilsyth and District" (two beds) (Royaumont and Salonica, further 6 months)	Per Mrs. H. Moncrieff, Colzium House, Kilsyth. Result of Gift Watch Sale.
"Stand Grammar School" (Royaumont, further donation)	Per Miss Beckett, Stand Grammar School, Whitefield, near Manchester.

* Denotes further donations.

Erratum.—In our issue of September 21st, £73 1s. 11d. donation for Innerleithen and Walkerburn beds should read, per Mrs. J. K. Ballantyne, Nether Caherstone, Walkerburn, proceeds of a garden fête held in support of the Innerleithen and Walkerburn Beds.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Items of Interest.

Leith tramway drivers and conductors, both men and women, are to receive a wage increase of ½d. an hour.

The Admiralty announce a wages concession of 2s. 6d. weekly to women over eighteen, and 1s. 3d. to those under eighteen, in their employ.

President Wilson has ordered that all American school children shall have lessons on the problems of communal and national life. His aim is that the next generation shall be better equipped with a knowledge of the true ideals of democracy than the present generation was found to be at the beginning of the war.

The Mahraj Kumar of Tekari has left his entire estate in trust for the purpose of founding an institution for the education of Indian girls. The scheme provides for a purdah residential institution, where girls between five and eighteen years of age will receive a modern education, irrespective of caste or creed.

Women as Forage Guards.

A Corps of 1,000 women, recruited and drilled by the Women's Volunteer Reserve, is being formed under the War Office to act as guards for the large stocks of forage which have been accumulated in camps throughout the country. This work has hitherto been done by soldiers, who will thus be relieved for active service.

American Women and Food Economy.

Mr. Hoover, the National Food Administrator of the U.S.A., has stated that 90 per cent. of matter concerned with American food consumption pour through the hands of women, and he has been making great use of the women's press in carrying out his food economy campaign. *The Ladies' Home Journal* for September, has the following heading:—"Questions that women ask Mr. Hoover, answered here, so that every woman in America may know what she can do to help the Food Administration." No one reading the American Women's papers which reach England can fail to be struck by the energy and practical knowledge which are being devoted to the subject of Food Economy in America.

Conditions in the Dressmaking Trade.

Even before the war, dressmaking establishments were finding it difficult to get the number of girls they required to enter their workrooms as "learners." During the last three years the position has gone from bad to worse from their point of view, with the result that an organised effort is being made by many of the West End dressmaking, ladies' tailoring, and millinery establishments to attract recruits to this trade by improved conditions of work and pay. Over sixty leading firms have adopted these conditions, which include a standard commencing wage, with an advance after six months, a forty-eight hours week, and payment for Bank Holidays and during a weeks' summer holiday. Intelligent girls are said to be able to qualify to become forewomen, earning as much as £230 a year. Girls between the ages of 14 and 16 years will be required to attend a London County Council trade training school for three hours a day on two days a week during business hours, such attendance counting as part of their employment.

These conditions have been approved by the London County Council education authorities, and by the Ministry of Labour. A booklet setting forth the advantages of these trades has been prepared for circulation among the parents of girls who have reached the age for leaving school.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Wolverton.—A garden meeting was held on Tuesday, the 25th ult., the President, the Rev. Canon Harnett in the chair. There was a fairly good attendance, and Mrs. Stocks gave a much-appreciated address on the prospects of the Representation of the People Bill, emphasising the fact of the changed attitude of the public and of many prominent men towards Woman Suffrage since the war. She spoke of the work of the N.U.W.S.S. in the past, and advocated the widening of its activities in the future, especially in the direction of removing invidious distinctions between men and women entering certain professions. A discussion followed, and at the close the Secretary proposed that a club be formed to educate the new and the prospective voters. Several new members were enrolled for the society, and seven for the proposed club. Refreshments were served, and the receipts are to be sent to The Common Cause Hut.

Harrow.—A meeting was held by Mrs. Campbell's (Chair) kind invitation at her house at Hatch End, on Thursday, September 27th. After a short business meeting to elect officers and Committee, six friends, non-members, joined us, and Miss Meredith, N.U.W.S.S., gave a very interesting address on reconstruction after the war. She spoke of advantages gained where women are enfranchised, and enlarged on many subjects we must work for in preparation for the vote and after. Discussion followed, and Mrs. Campbell gave interesting details of life in Australia after the enfranchisement.

Forthcoming Meetings.

OCTOBER 4.

Holloway Sisterhood (Upper Holloway Baptist Chapel, Holloway Road)—Speaker: Mrs. Bertram. 7.30 p.m.

OCTOBER 10.

Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street.

OCTOBER 11.

Brixton—2, St. John's Road—Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Fisher—Hostess: Miss Helen Downs. 3.30 p.m.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

OCTOBER 12th. GATEHOUSE, MIDHURST.—Afternoon Meeting—Speaker: Miss May Curwen.

OUR STARVING PRISONERS IN GERMANY.

Our fellow countrymen who are prisoners in Germany, among whom are many of our best and bravest, are enduring worse than death. There is only one way to help these unfortunate captives; not by individual effort, but through the agency of some properly organised society. Naturally, people long for personal touch, but private aid has now become impossible, and none but parcels sent by a recognised association have any chance of reaching their destination. The Royal Savoy Association has been sending relief in this way for more than two years, and any donations sent to the Rev. Hugh B. Chapman, 7, Savoy Hill, W.C., will be gratefully acknowledged.

ALL BRITISH.
VALKASA
THE TONIC NERVE FOOD.
An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE.
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All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Association of Advertising Women.—Meeting, Oct. 8th, Connaught Rooms, Gt. Queen-st., W.C., 8 p.m. Mr. Godley (of the *Daily Mirror*) on "Thirty Years in Fleet-st." All business women cordially invited; applications for membership should be addressed to the Secretary, A.A.W., 19, Buckingham-st., Strand, W.C.

Miss A. Maude Royden will preach at a series of Church Services, to be held on Wednesdays, October 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, at 6.30 p.m., in the Conference Hall, Central Buildings, Westminster. The Services are open to all.

BIRTH.

Way.—On Sept. 28th, at the South Coast Twilight Sleep Maternity Home, Lanrick, Boscombe, to Mr. and Mrs. P. J. D. Way (née Daisie Burrell Frost), Grilstone, South Molton, Devon—a daughter.

(Continued on page 316

"A Complete Food
by which even the weakliest can be nourished and strengthened"—such is Benger's.
Benger's Food can be fully nutritive when digestion is weakened, because while being prepared, it undergoes a first process of natural digestion, the means for which are self-contained in the Food.
BENGER'S
Food
is for Infants, Invalids, and the Aged, and all whose digestive powers have become weakened through illness, accident, or excess.
From a Captain of the Royal Army Medical Corps.
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Benger's Food is sold in tins by Chemists, etc., everywhere, price 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, 5/- & 10/-.
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BENGER'S FOOD LTD., MANCHESTER, England.
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Continued from page 307]

BOOKS, Etc.

TESTED FLOUR SAVING RECIPES.
No. 1.—Bread and Maize Scones. No. 2.—Bread and Oaten Wafers. No. 3.—Cakes and Biscuits. Singly, 1½d.; set of three, 3d., post free.—From the Betterment Book Room, 40a, Rosslyn Hill, N.W. 3.

GARDENING.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Essentially practical training. Vegetable, fruit and flower culture. Healthy outdoor life. Individual consideration. Long or short courses; from 60 gns. per annum. Gardening year begins September 21st.—Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udimore, near Rye, Sussex.

MOTORING.

WARWICK SCHOOL OF MOTORING
259, WARWICK ROAD, KENSINGTON.
Telephone - - 946 Western.
Officially appointed and recommended by the Royal Automobile Club.
Individual Tuition given to Each Pupil.
Call and inspect our mechanical class rooms, which are fully equipped for practical training. Driving and mechanism is thoroughly taught by a competent staff.

LANGUAGES.

LESSONS and classes for study of French at 7, Old Bond-street, W., by lady with many years' experience in Paris; terms moderate.—Apply by letter to Mme. Bolton, Spring Grove House, Isleworth, W.

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Home School on Progressive Thought lines. Large garden, cricket field, sea bathing; all exams. Special care given to backward and delicate girls.—Principal: Miss Richardson, B.A.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 5, Kingsway. 'Phone, Central 8049.

£50 PRIZE.—Send postage (twopence) for particulars and copy of "How to Make Money With Your Pen" (learn to earn by writing) to Craven Press, 32, Craven-st., Strand, London.

MEDICAL, &c.

ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY, 69, Upper Street,
MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,
FREDK. G. BOUCHER, Asst. Dental Surgeon. Estd. 35 Yrs.
Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man.
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ARTISTIC hand-embroidered dresses, coats, and jibbahs. Special prices during war time. Designs, &c., on application.—Maud Barham (late 182, Regent-st.), 33-34, Haymarket, S.W. Facing Piccadilly Tube Station.

LACE cleaned, mended, transferred. Many testimonials.—Beatrice, "C.C." Office. (No postcards.)

PERFECT FITTING Corsets made to order from 15s. 6d. Also accurately copied to customers' own patterns.—Emilie, 17, Burlington-arcade, Piccadilly.

BLOUSES AND LINGERIE, Newest Styles, to suit all figures in stock, and to measure at moderate prices. Ladies' shirts a speciality.—M. Clack, 16-17, Burlington Arcade, London, W. 1.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES.—Latest styles to measure; best workmanship and smart cut guaranteed; from £4 4s.—H. Nelissen, 62, Great Portland-st., W. (late 14, Great Titchfield-st.)

LAUNDRY.

BUSH HILL PARK STEAM LAUNDRY, 19-29, Second Avenue, Enfield. Proprietor, Miss M. B. Lattimer. Best family work, under personal supervision of trained experts. Open-air drying. Specialities: flannels, silks, fine linen, laces, &c. Prompt attention to parcels sent by post.

FOR SALE.

ATHEENIC UNSHRINKABLE UNDERWEAR is made from purest materials. Comfortable and durable. To be had in all textures and sizes. Write for patterns and prices.—Dept. 10, Atheenic Mills, Hawick, Scotland.

"COMMON CAUSE" Fountain Pens, price 5s. 6d. each. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Apply, sending P.O. for 5s. 8d. (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

DEVONSHIRE CLOTTED CREAM, 2s. 9d. per lb.; 1s. 6d. per ½ lb., post free.—Miss Hilda Paynter, Hocklake Farm, Berealston, Devon.

FOR SALE.—24 lbs. Cox's Orange Pippins, 10s.; 24 lbs. good Cooking Apples, 4s. 6d.; 12 lbs. Quinces, 3s. 6d., 24 lbs., 6s.; 12 lbs. stewing Pears, 3s. 6d. Carriage paid within 100 miles.—Mrs. Powell, Harmer Green, Welwyn, Herts.

IRISH LINEN TABLECLOTHS, beautiful floral designs, fine quality, slightly imperfect, size 2 by 2 yds., 9s., postage 5d. Write for this month's free Bargain List.—Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

WANTED.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT.—MESSRS. BROWNING, Dental Manufacturers, 83, Oxford-st., London, THE ORIGINAL FIRM who do not advertise misleading prices. Full value by return or offer made. Call or post. Est. 100 years.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT.—We positively pay highest prices. Up to 7s. per tooth pinned on vulcanite; 12s. on silver; 15s. on gold; £2 on platinum. Cash or offer by return. If offer not accepted we return parcel post free. Satisfaction guaranteed by the reliable, genuine firm.—S. Cann & Co., 68a, Market-st., Manchester. Estd. 1850

FALSE TEETH BOUGHT.—Cash or offer by return. Before selling, make sure of their value by writing for free booklet, which explains very clearly the value of any artificial teeth.—E. Lewis, 29, London-st., Southport, Lancs.

MADAME HELENE, 5, Hanover-rd., Scarborough, gives generous prices for ladies' and gentlemen's worn suits, dresses, boots, furs, lingerie, and children's garments; separate price for each article; carriage paid. Cash by return, or parcel promptly returned if offer not accepted.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued, and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 109, Raby-st., Newcastle-on-Tyne

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The large London Market enables
ROBINSON Bros. of
5, Hampstead Rd. (nr. Maple's), W. & 127, Fenchurch St., E.C.
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A UNIQUE Old-world House, in a good commercial street, close to Kensington Gardens, to be let on lease immediately; an excellent opportunity for gentlewomen with professions or crafts, since under the same roof, with 30-ft. frontage, exist two good shops; quiet studios or lecture room; workshops, dark room; garden sheds in yard, with back and front entrance; 12 charming residential rooms, mostly panelled, with good cupboards in walls; gas or coal fires; carved staircase, easy flights; there is good drainage, 2 geyser bath-rooms, electric light, telephone; all rooms light and airy. Owner could live rent-free.—Address Mrs. Keightley, 8, Leonard-place, Kensington.

CHELSEA.—Furnished Flat to let, 1 sitting, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, restaurant.—Apply M. D., Box 6,995, Common Cause Office.

GARDEN SUBURB.—Furnished sitting-room and one or two bedrooms, with attendance, for ladies engaged during the day.—155, Hampstead Way.

TO LET.—Three Unfurnished Rooms; suit two friends; rental, 10s. weekly.—Write Nobbs, Sandleford, Bramber-rd., North Finchley, N. 12.

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MARY CURZON HOSTEL, for Educated Girl Workers. Just opened, 170, King's Cross-rd., W.C. 1. Cubicles, 18s. a week, including breakfast and dinner daily and full board Saturdays and Sundays.—Apply, the Superintendent, at the Hostel.

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ST. ANDREW'S HOUSE CLUB, 31a, Mortimer-st., W. (close to Oxford Circus). Subscription, 21s.; entrance fee, 21s. Residential and non-residential, for professional women, students, &c.—For prospectus, apply Secretary.

N.U.W.S.S.

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I enclose Donation of £ : s. d.

Name _____
(Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title.)

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